Expansion of handicraft sector

4379. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for expansion of handicraft sector in the different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of programmes that have been formulated so far alongwith the financial allocation to be made in this regard during the year 2001-2002; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. For expansion of handicrafts in the country, the programmes formulated include: launching of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AMVY) for developing artisan clusters; launching of website on handicrafts; setting up of a National Center for design and product development at New Delhi and Moradabad and setting up of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology at Bhadohi. Besides, the existing schemes for promotion and development of handicrafts in the areas of training, design development, setting up of crafts development centres/common facility center; exhibition and publicity, workshed-cum-housing and marketing development are further being strengthened.

A sum of Rs. 79.00 crores has been allocated by the Government during the current financial year i.e. 2001-2002 for promotion and development of handicrafts in the country.

Suicide by cotton growers in A.P.

4380. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports of suicides by cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh have been reported; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ban import of cotton and explore the possibilities of more exports of cotton to help farmers?